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Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

5 July 1949

Chief, Map Branch, ORE

Report on Mission to New York and Lisbon, 27 March - 16 April 1949

1. Purpose of Mission.

There were four major objectives for the mission:

a. To participate in an organizational meeting with Dr. Leite de Castro of Brazil, Chairman of the Commission on Geography of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, at which a few interested persons from Washington and New York were in attendance. At this gathering the scope of the agenda and objectives for the First Consultation on Geography to be held at Rio de Janeiro in September, 1949, was discussed.

b. To observe and participate in the meeting of the Committee of Cartographic Experts called together at Lake Success by the Secretary General of the United Nations. A draft report to the Secretary General was formulated at this meeting.

c. To confer at Lisbon with geographic attaches from London, Cairo, Vienna, and Casablanca in regard to new policies and procedures formulated for the more effective and definitive operation of the coordinated foreign map procurement program conducted in large part through the facilities of the U. S. Foreign Service.

d. To observe and attend, as official delegate from the National Research Council, the meetings of the Sixteenth International Geographical Union held at Lisbon from 8-15 April, 1949.

2. Organizational Meeting for the Commission on Geography of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History.

Leite de Castro called the meeting for 27 April at the Statler Hotel, New York City. Invited were P. E. James, U. S. Member of the Commission; Robert H. Randall, Vice-President of the Pan-American Institute; William Vogt, Chief of the Conservation Division of the Organization of American States; John K. Wright, Raye Platt, and O. W. Miller of the American Geographical Society; Charles Hitchcock, Acting Director of the Society; Andre Simonpietri, Executive Secretary of the Pan-American Institute; S. W. Boggs of the Department of State; and myself.

Leite de Castro stressed the official character of the forthcoming First Consultation on Geography, delegates to which would be designated by their respective Governments. He pointed out that its purpose will be the discussion of current activities, programs and problems relating

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to current and potential geographic investigations within the American Nations. It was decided that representatives of international professional societies will be invited, but other attendance will be left to each Government concerned. Five Committees will hold non-simultaneous sessions interspersed by round-table discussions. The number of topics for discussion will be restricted and will point toward current questions, such as food supply, population shifts, industrial potentials, agricultural potentials, soil productivity, regional planning, and phases of resource conservation. The meetings are to be followed by planned excursions to various parts of Brazil in order to examine problems and developments of that country. The Consultation is scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro beginning 12 September, 1949.

3. The Meetings of the Committee of Cartographic Experts at Lake Success.

In a communication of 22 January, 1947, the United States Representative to the United Nations sent a communication to the Secretary General in which was included a suggestion from the Vice-President of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History that the Secretary General call together a group of expert consultants, selected on the basis of individual competence, to discuss the subject of coordination of cartography at United Nations level. On 14 January, 1948, the Economic and Social Council recommended, in line with a proposal made by Brazil, that Member Governments stimulate the accurate survey and mapping of their national territories and that the Secretary General take appropriate action to promote exchange of technical information, prepare studies of cartographic developments, coordinate programs and develop close cooperation with cartographic services of interested Member Governments. The Secretary General called a meeting of experts during the latter half of March, 1949. The Committee was composed of Robert H. Randall (U.S.A., Chairman); Brigadier R. L. Brown (U.K.); Dr. Leite de Castro (Brazil); Dr. Ir. W. Schermerhorn (Neth.); M. Robert Verlaene (Belg.). Representatives of the Specialized Agencies and of Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations were present. From 26 - 30 March, 1949, I participated in discussions regarding the proposed report to the Secretary General and formulated, with the assistance of a working group, the preliminary draft of the Chapter on the recommended organization for the United Nations Cartographic Office.

There were two major questions. First, what should the United Nations do to stimulate and assist its Member Nations in procuring cartographic information, and secondly, what sort of cartographic service is required within the U. N. organization? The report as formulated consisted of two chapters explaining the need for maps and the present status of mapping, followed by a third chapter giving a brief description of the various organizations presently available to produce maps and coordinate mapping. A major recommendation formulated by the group was based on the concept of regional interests and regional meetings and was described in Chapter Four. It was suggested that U. N.

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call the first of each of the regional meetings; that representatives at these meetings review programs and needs for mapping, formulate regional programs, exchange technical information and provide mutual assistance to adhering Nations. Chapter Five pertained to the proposed cartographic office within the U. N. where a competent cartographer would advise the Secretary General on cartographic matters; administer a map library and cartographic service for the U. N. Secretariat, the General Assembly, the Councils and Commissions; assist in scheduling and arranging for regional meetings and otherwise stimulate cartographic coordination; and would publish yearbooks on the world cartographic situation. The present small and inadequate map library and cartographic facilities of the Secretariat would be expanded and centralized under an internationally known cartographer who would be served by a panel of consultants, as described in Chapter Six. The final report of the Secretary General, based on the Committee's report, has just been issued as ECOSOC Document No. E/1322, dated 18 May 1949.

4. Conference of Geographic Attaches at Lisbon

25X1C4d [REDACTED] I called a conference of Geographic Attaches stationed in Europe and North Africa to be held at Lisbon from 4 - 7 April 1949. Attaches who were charged with the conduct of foreign map and map intelligence procurement came to Lisbon for this conference from London, Vienna, Cairo and Casablanca. The Attache from Casablanca was enroute to Pretoria, South Africa. Mr. Freund, representing the Office of the Special Assistant for Research and Intelligence, Department of State, attended as part of an inspection tour through Europe. [REDACTED] of the CIA was also in attendance in view of his interest in map intelligence procurement. 25X1C4d

On 4 April, 1949, the Attaches were briefed on the scope and objectives of the SIS basic intelligence program. The importance for this program of their collection activities in foreign countries was stressed. Based on discussions in Washington, considerable time was spent on a redefinition of map procurement as opposed to publication procurement as carried on in the field. The Attaches had experienced situations which bordered on covert collection particularly within the Satellite countries. Emphasis was placed on the overt character of the procurement 25X1A9a and map intelligence as undertaken by these officers. In cases [REDACTED] only through covert means. [REDACTED]

Various problems relating to the establishment of map exchange arrangements with foreign agencies were discussed during the remainder of the day.

On 5 April 1949, the Attaches were briefed at length on the specific requirements of the several mapping and intelligence agencies of the U. S. Government. The relation of the Geographic Attaches to the offices

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of the Military, Naval and Air Attaches was clarified. There was general agreement that coordination in the field in meeting the requirements of the military services had been very satisfactory and of mutual benefit. The remainder of the day was spent on the discussion of many detailed problems relating to the matter of communications and the shipments of materials to Washington.

On 6 April, [redacted] inquired into problems of an administrative character, requesting suggestions that might lead to the improvement and simplification of operations at Foreign Service posts. Lack of stenographic and clerical assistance was one of the great handicaps for the Attaches in conducting their work. In general, the embassy staffs abroad are most cooperative in rendering assistance to the best of their capabilities. Considerable time was spent on a review of regional assignments with the conclusion that no major changes were required.

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On 7 April, the Attaches were given ample opportunity to comment on the general and specific instructions that they received from Washington. Each Attache submitted a carefully prepared report on the potentialities for map and map intelligence procurement in his region and suggested a program for the coming year.

During the period of these meetings, individual conferences were held with each of the attaches to discuss both the professional and personal problems encountered in the performance of their work. There was unanimous agreement that this conference was extremely beneficial to all concerned, and of great assistance in promoting the effectiveness of the foreign map procurement program.

5. The Sixteenth International Geographical Congress.

The Congress met at Lisbon from 8 - 15 April 1949. It was called by the International Geographical Union which also held meetings during the Congress. This Union is affiliated with the Council of Scientific Unions for which the adhering body in the U. S. is the National Research Council. Seven U. S. delegates, designated by the National Research Council, were in attendance, of which I was one. In all, 38 persons attended from the United States and 292 from foreign countries, including 140 from Portugal. Forty-three countries were represented, of which 30 are now members of the International Geographical Union. No representatives came from behind the Iron Curtain.

The International Geographical Union revised its statutes, admitted 4 new countries, and accepted the invitation to hold the Seventeenth International Geographical Congress in the U. S. in 1952. Thirteen Commissions were either continued or established. The International Geographical Union resolved to tender its services to, and record its intentions to cooperate with, the United Nations and specialized agencies, in particular by its practice of creating commissions to investigate and report on problems lying within its field of interest.

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The following officers were elected to hold office until the end of the Seventeenth Congress:

President.....Prof. George B. Cressey (U.S.A.)
1st Vice-President...Prof. M. A. Lefevre (Belgium)
Vice-Presidents.....Prof. R. Almagia (Italy)
 Prof. Hans Boesch (Switzerland)
 Prof. G. H. Kuriyan (India)
 Dr. Christovam Leite de Castro (Brasil)
 Prof. Orlando Ribeiro (Portugal)
 Prof. L. Dudley Stamp (Great Britain)
General Secretary...Prof. George H. T. Kimble (Canada)

The Technical Sessions were broken down into seven sections. In Section I (Cartography) 23 reports on cartographic work or projects were presented. Other sections included physical geography, biogeography, human and economic geography, geography of colonization, historical geography and methodology. Following the Congress, many of those in attendance participated in well-planned field excursions.

A description of the Congress is given by S. W. Boggs in the Scientific Monthly for July 1949, pp 63 - 66.

I was particularly glad of the opportunity to discuss geographic and cartographic problems with the leading professional geographers from several of the European as well as Near Eastern countries, and to discuss matters relating to map exchange arrangements with the Executive Secretary of the Consejo Superior Geografico (the coordinating agency for all official mapping in Spain), and with the Director of the Institut Geographique National (the official civilian and military topographic mapping agency of France) where, in both instances, minor difficulties had arisen.

O. E. GUTHE

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